

M-1 second dichroic filters defining a second optical waveguide for directing all of said M second laser beams into a second optical path, wherein each of said M-1 second dichroic filters transmits a corresponding one of said M second laser beams and reflects all other said M second laser beams;

5 a polarizer disposed at the intersection of said first and second optical paths coupling said M first and M second laser beams into the second optical path to thereby produce 2M polarization coupled laser beams; wherein said fiber coupling device collects said 2M polarization coupled laser beams to produce a respective one of said N output beams.

15 **14. A diode laser system, comprising:**
means for generating N laser beams, wherein each of said
N laser beams includes multiple wavelengths of light
and wherein said generating means comprises:

25 M-1 first filter means defining a first optical waveguide for directing all of said M first laser beams into a first optical path, wherein each of said M-1 first filter means transmits a corresponding one of said M first laser beams and reflects all other said M first laser beams;

N optical fiber means receiving respective one of said N output laser beams for generating N received output beams; and

where N and M are both integers ≥ 2 .

a single transform lens focusing said recollimated N×M laser beams onto said single spot.

17. The diode laser system as set forth in claim 14, wherein said single spot corresponds to one end of a rare-earth doped optical fiber.

19. The diode laser system as set forth in claim 14, wherein said generating means further comprises:

60 M-1 second filter means defining a second optical waveguide for directing all of said M second laser beams into a second optical path, wherein each of said M-1 second filter means transmits a corresponding one of said M second laser beams and reflects all other said M second laser beams;

polarization means disposed at the intersection of said first and second optical paths for coupling said M first

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and M second laser beams into said second optical path to thereby produce 2M polarization coupled laser beams.

wherein said fiber coupling means collects said 2M polarization coupled laser beams to produce a respective one of said N laser beams. 5

20. The diode laser system as set forth in claim 19, wherein said fiber coupling device comprises a transform lens for receiving and for coupling said 2M polarization coupled laser beams to one of said N optical fiber means to thereby produce a respective one of said N output beams. 10

21. A method for generating a high energy laser beam, comprising:

- (a) generating P collimated laser beams having an Mth wavelength; 15
- (b) repeating step (a) M times so as to produce M×P collimated laser beams having M different wavelengths;
- (c) coupling said M×P collimated laser beams into an optical path;

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(d) coupling said $M \times P$ collimated laser beams into an i th optical fiber to thereby produce a corresponding i th output laser beam, where $i=1$ to N ;

5 (e) repeating steps (a) through (d) N times to thereby generate N output laser beams;

(f) recollimating said N output laser beams to produce N recollimated laser beams; and

(g) focusing said N recollimated laser beams onto a single spot.

10 where M , N and P are integers ≥ 2 .

22. The method as set forth in claim 21, wherein step (c) comprises dichroically coupling said $M \times P$ collimated laser beams into said optical path.

15 23. The method as set forth in claim 21, wherein step (c) comprises dichroically and polarization coupling said $M \times P$ collimated laser beams into said optical path.

24. The method as set forth in claim 21, wherein step (c) comprises polarization coupling said $M \times P$ collimated laser beams into said optical path.

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25. A diode laser system, comprising:

a laser head assembly generating an output beam, the laser head assembly including:

M modules which generate M laser beams, wherein each of said M laser beams has a different single wavelength; and

M-2 dichroic filters, wherein each of said M-2 dichroic filters transmits a corresponding one of said M laser beams and reflects all other of said M laser beams into a predetermined optical path to produce said output beam,

where M is an integer ≥ 2 .

26. A diode laser system, comprising:

a laser head assembly which generates an output beam, the laser head assembly including:

M modules which generate M laser beams, wherein each of said M laser beams occupies a different wavelength band;

M-R dichroic filters, wherein each of said M-R dichroic filters transmits at least a respective one of said M laser beams occupying a given wavelength band and reflects all other of said M laser beams not occupying the given wavelength band; and
an optical device which combines said M laser beams to thereby produce said output beam,

wherein:

M and R are positive integers; and

M is an integer ≥ 2 .

27. The diode laser system as recited in claim 26, wherein the optical device comprises means for collecting said M laser beams to thereby produce said output beam.

28. The diode laser system as recited in claim 26, wherein the optical device comprises a fiber coupling device which collects said M laser beams to thereby produce said output beam.

29. The diode laser system as recited in claim 26, wherein the optical device comprises a polarization combiner which combines first selected ones of said M laser beams with second selected ones of said M laser beams to thereby produce said output beam.

30. The diode laser system as recited in claim 29, wherein the first selected ones of said M laser beams are equal in number to the second selected ones of said M laser beams.

31. A laser head assembly which generates an output beam including M laser beams, comprising:

M modules generating M laser beams, wherein each of said M laser beams has a different single wavelength; and

M-2 dichroic filters, wherein each of said M-2 dichroic filters transmits a corresponding one of said M laser beams and reflects all other of said M laser beams;

wherein M is an integer ≥ 2 .

1 32. The laser head assembly as recited in claim 31, further comprising a fiber coupling device
2 collecting said M laser beams to produce an output beam;

1 33. A method for generating a high energy laser beam, comprising:
2 (a) generating P collimated laser beams having an Mth wavelength;
3 (b) repeating step (a) M times so as to produce MxP collimated laser beams having M
4 different wavelengths; and
5 (c) coupling said MxP collimated laser beams into an optical path to produce a high energy
6 laser beam,
7 wherein M and P are integers ≥ 2 .

1 34. The method as recited in claim 33, wherein the step (c) comprises dichroically coupling
2 said MxP collimated laser beams into said optical path.

1 35. The method as recited in claim 33, wherein the step (c) comprises dichroically and
2 polarization coupling said MxP collimated laser beams into said optical path.

1 36. A diode laser system, comprising:
2 laser head assembly (LHA) which generates an output beam, the LHA including:
3 M modules generating M laser beams, wherein each of said M laser beams has a different
4 single wavelength;
5 M-1 dichroic filters defining an optical waveguide for directing all of said M laser beams into
6 the optical path, wherein each of said M-1 first dichroic filters transmits a corresponding one of said
7 M laser beams and reflects all other said M laser beams; and
8 a fiber coupling device disposed adjacent to the optical path for collecting said M laser beams
9 to thereby produce an output beam;
10 where M is an integer ≥ 2 .

1 37. A diode laser system, comprising:
2 laser head assembly (LHA) which generates an output beam, the LHA including:
3 M first modules generating M first laser beams, wherein each of said M first laser beams has
4 a different single wavelength;
5 M-1 first dichroic filters defining a first optical waveguide for directing all of said M first
6 laser beams into a first optical path, wherein each of said M-1 first dichroic filters transmits a
7 corresponding one of said M first laser beams and reflects all other said M first laser beams;
8 M second modules generating M second laser beams, wherein each of said M second laser
9 beams has a different single wavelength;
10 M-1 second dichroic filters defining a second optical waveguide for directing all of said M
11 second laser beams into a second optical path, wherein each of said M-1 second dichroic filters
12 transmits a corresponding one of said M second laser beams and reflects all other said M second
13 laser beams;
14 a polarization combiner disposed at the intersection of said first and second optical paths

15 which coupling said M first and M second laser beams into the second optical path to thereby
16 produce 2M polarization coupled laser beams; and

17 a fiber coupling device disposed adjacent to said first and second optical paths for coupling
18 said 2M polarization coupled laser beams to thereby produce the output beam,

19 where M is an integer ≥ 2 .

1 38. A laser head assembly (LHA) which generates an output beam, comprising:
2 M modules generating M laser beams, wherein each of said M laser beams has a different
3 single wavelength;

4 M-R dichroic filters defining a first optical waveguide for directing all of said M laser beams
5 into a first optical path, wherein each of said M-R dichroic filters transmits at least one of said M
6 laser beams;

7 S second modules generating S laser beams, wherein each of said S laser beams has a
8 different single wavelength;

9 S-T dichroic filters defining a second optical waveguide for directing all of said S laser
10 beams into a second optical path, wherein each of said S-T dichroic filters transmits at least one of
11 said S laser beams;

12 a polarization combiner disposed at the intersection of said first and second optical paths
13 which couple said M and said S laser beams into a common optical path to thereby produce M + S
14 polarization coupled laser beams; and

15 a fiber coupling device disposed adjacent to said first and second optical paths for coupling
16 said M + S polarization coupled laser beams to thereby produce the output beam,

17 wherein:

18 M, R, S and T are positive integers; and

19 at least one of M and S is ≥ 2 .

20 39. A diode laser system, comprising:
21 means for generating M laser beams, each of said M laser beams having a different
22 wavelength;

23 M-R filter means defining a first optical waveguide for directing all of said M first laser
24 beams into an optical path, wherein each of said M-R filter means transmits at least one of said M
25 first laser beams; and

26 fiber coupling means disposed adjacent to said optical path for collecting said M laser beams
27 to thereby produce an output laser beam,

28 wherein M and R are both positive integers, and

29 wherein M ≥ 2 .

30 40. A diode laser system, comprising:
31 first means for generating M first laser beams, wherein each of said M first laser beams has
32 a different single wavelength;

33 M-1 first filter means defining a first optical waveguide for directing all of said M first laser
34 beams into an optical path, wherein each of said M-1 filter means transmits a corresponding one of
35 said M first laser beams and reflects all other said M first laser beams;
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second means for generating M second laser beams, wherein each of said M second laser beams has a different single wavelength;

M-1 second filter means defining a second optical waveguide for directing all of said M second laser beams into a second optical path, wherein each of said M-1 second filter means transmits a corresponding one of said M second laser beams and reflects all other said M second laser beams;

polarization combining means disposed at the intersection of said first and second optical paths for coupling said M first and said M second laser beams into said second optical path to thereby produce 2M polarization coupled laser beams; and

fiber coupling means disposed adjacent to said second optical path for collecting said 2M polarization coupled laser beams to thereby produce an output laser beam,

wherein M is a integer ≥ 2 .

41. A method for generating a high energy laser beam, comprising:

(a) generating P collimated laser beams having an Mth wavelength;

(b) repeating step (a) M times so as to produce $M \times P$ collimated laser beams having M different wavelengths;

(c) coupling said $M \times P$ collimated laser beams into an optical path; and

(d) coupling said $M \times P$ collimated laser beams into an ith optical fiber to thereby produce a corresponding ith output laser beam, where $i=1$ to N;

where M, N and P are positive integers and both M and $P \geq 2$.

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